

SFChronicle

Ex-Agent's Attack on CIA

Washington

The Senate Intelligence Committee and the Central Intelligence Agency are looking into allegations by a former CIA officer that CIA field officers fattened their own pocketbooks from agency funds.

John R. Stockwell, a 13-year CIA veteran, also charged that the agency deceived Congress and that most CIA operations in Vietnam were fabrications.

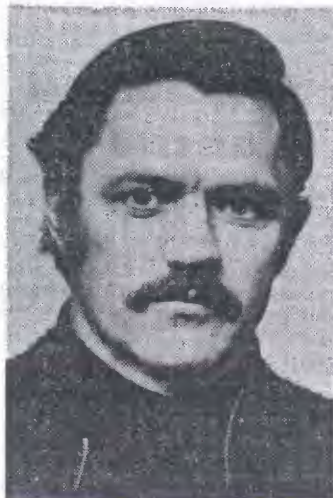
Stockwell pleaded for reform of the CIA in his resignation letter last week to Admiral Stansfield Turner, the new CIA director.

The 2000-word letter was published Sunday in the Washington Post.

Stockwell said he had served in Vietnam and several African posts as well as at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va.

He said that after he became a station chief, a superior told him how to supplement his income "by an additional \$3000-\$4000 a year by manipulating representational and operational funds. This was quite within regulations."

Stockwell said one station chief in Africa collected more than \$9000



AP Wirephoto

JOHN R. STOCKWELL
A 13-year veteran

from the CIA last year for his own household expenses.

A CIA spokesman said Turner had not received Stockwell's letter.

"Throughout his career, Stockwell never brought any of his comments to the attention of the agency," the spokesman said. "The

agency has begun to look into these matters."

Spencer Davis, a staff member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, would say only that an investigation has begun.

"The Senate Intelligence committee is looking into Mr. Stockwell's allegations," he said.

The Senate committee was set up after recent investigations found CIA involvement in domestic spying, plots to kill foreign leaders and other activities.

Stockwell, 40, said CIA files were cleansed of incriminating documents and that documents were hidden from congressional investigators.

He said a CIA associate had told him that the agency file relating to David Bufkin, an American mercenary in Angola, "was carefully purged."

"Certain documents containing information about him were placed in other files where they could be easily retrieved but not be exposed if he demanded and gained access to his own file," Stockwell said.

Stockwell said in the letter to Turner that he and other CIA

officers were "disappointed that you have given no indication of intention or even awareness of the need for the internal housecleaning that is so conspicuously overdue at the agency."

He said he was writing the letter in the hope that "it might lead to measures which would upgrade the clandestine service from its present mediocre standard to the elite organization it was once reputed to be."

Stockwell also made scathing criticisms of CIA operations in Vietnam.

"Agency operations in Vietnam would have discouraged even the most callous, self-serving of adventures ... Ninety-eight per cent of the operations were commonly agreed to be fabrications, but were papered over by aware case officers because of the 'numbers games' requirements from headquarters."

"Several senior CIA field officers were caught by surprise, fled in hasty panic and otherwise abandoned their responsibilities" when South Vietnam was about to surrender in April, 1975, Stockwell said.

Associated Press